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McLAREN, W. W. *A Political History of Japan During the Meiji Era, 1867-1912*. Pp. 379. Price, \$3.75. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916.

The title of this book appears to be more or less of a misnomer. It is not so much a general political history of Japan during the Meiji Era as a history of certain political tendencies and of such political institutions as the Daijokwan (Council of State), the Privy Council, the various Cabinets, and (since 1890) the numerous sessions of Japanese Diets.

The work is divided into two parts. Part I, entitled "The Reconstruction Period" includes chapters on The Restoration Movement, The Abolition of Feudalism, The Reconstruction of Government, and so forth. Part II, on "The Parliamentary Régime" apparently deals with such topics as The Chino-Japanese War, The Russo-Japanese War, The End of the Meiji Era, etc. But the reader will find that these chapter-headings serve to mark off periods of time rather than as indices of the subject matter.

To those acquainted with Professor McLaren as a man or with his work as a scholar, this volume will be somewhat disappointing. His knowledge of the subject is undoubtedly thorough and comprehensive, but it is here presented in a particularly dry and unattractive form. For example, each cabinet change is carefully chronicled and the work of each session of the Diet accurately summarized. Besides, though the tone of impartial treatment is maintained throughout, the work is not free from a very pronounced anti-Japanese bias.

The book is not without its merits. The author is without illusions regarding the democratic or representative character of Japanese institutions or the pacific tendencies of the Japanese peoples. Its main thesis is perhaps that the Japanese are an essentially militaristic nation led and controlled (and it should be added, partly held in leash) by a bureaucratic clan oligarchy. The history and characteristics of this oligarchy during the Meiji period are very carefully traced. There is perhaps too much assumption insufficiently supported by evidence, but there can be no question of the substantial accuracy of the author's descriptions of political corruption and the evil tendencies inherent in clan government. Whether his assumption of a well-defined, unscrupulous and aggressive foreign policy in respect to China is equally well-founded remains to be demonstrated or disproven by future events.

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MADSEN, A. W. *The State as Manufacturer and Trader*. Pp. ix, 281. Price, 7 s. 6 d. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1916.

The purpose of this monograph is apparently to show the defects of government-managed industries, and so far as tobacco manufacture is concerned, the effort is entirely successful. The author presents brief sketches of the State tobacco monopoly in France, Italy, Austria, Japan, Spain and Sweden. He shows the financial results, the popular verdict on the quality of goods produced, and the unbusinesslike management of the public authorities. Outside of France his sources of information seem to have been meager, but there is undoubtedly an unanimous verdict against government control in all the countries treated.

It is unnecessary to emphasize the point that the author's conclusions, founded on a single industry, are not to be applied without reserve to all government undertakings.

J. T. Y.

MILLARD, THOMAS F. *Our Eastern Question*. Pp. 543. Price, \$5.00. New York: The Century Company, 1916.

HORNBECK, STANLEY K. *Contemporary Politics in the Far East*. Pp. xii, 466. Price, \$3.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

*Our Eastern Question*, a sequel to Mr. Millard's earlier work, *America and the Far Eastern Question*, describes the insatiable ambition, and the limitless aggression, actual and seemingly contemplated, of Japan—especially the purpose or expectation, attributed to Japan, of a conflict with the United States. There is no difficulty in showing by a mere narrative that Japan in her recent dealings with China, particularly the treaty of 1915 and her policy in Shantung, has surpassed even the standards of lawlessness and faithlessness established by the common practice of the European powers in the East. In general, Mr. Millard seems pretty well to have justified also the warning which is his chief purpose. His indictment of Japan is confirmed by the details of Professor Hornbeck's less argumentative recital of events.

The achievement by Japan of her evident wish to control the economic life of China not through economic merit but by the sword (to say nothing of any further steps along the same path) would evidently constitute a calamity for ourselves and to the human race. In final analysis, the *question* is whether our nation, with its devotion to the ways of peace and its scant appreciation of international relations, is capable of facing boldly and at great probable cost the duty to the world and to ourselves which this situation forces upon us. The hope of Japan consists largely in the belief that we are incapable of rousing ourselves, under any circumstances to such a duty.

Professor Hornbeck has given us an excellent introduction to the subject which gives title to his book, with chapters on the recent political history of China and Japan (including accounts of the chief political groups and parties in each country) and on the mutual relations of these states and their relations to the chief nations of Europe and America. Appendices in each book give a large mass of valuable documents. Mr. Millard's work is seriously defective in having no sort of index and a very summary table of contents.

A. P. WINSTON.

Washington, D. C.

PORTER, ROBERT P. *Japan: the New World Power*. Pp. xxiv, 789. Price, \$2.50. New York: Oxford University Press.

In 1911 Mr. Robert P. Porter published *The Full Recognition of Japan* for the purpose of giving an account of the political and economic history of Japan down to the time when it was accorded full rights of sovereignty by the powers of the world. The present book upon *Japan: the New World Power* is a revision of the previous work and contains the record of the progress made by Japan since 1910.